



CITY of BEAVERTON

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEAVERTON TO HOST SPECIAL FUNDRAISER SCREENING OF 'THE BLIND SIDE' TO BENEFIT MORE THAN 1,240 HOMELESS STUDENTS

BEAVERTON, Oregon (April 7, 2010) – Here's your chance to get together with your community, help out homeless kids in the Beaverton School District and enjoy a family-friendly night out. Join Mayor Denny Doyle and the Beaverton City Council for a special screening of *The Blind Side* to help raise funds and awareness of student homelessness in Beaverton. The screening will take place at the **Valley Cinema & Pub (9360 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway)** tonight (**Wednesday, April 7**) at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets, a \$10 suggested donation, may be purchased in advance at www.BeavertonOregon.gov/blindside or by calling (503) 526-3706. **All proceeds will go directly to support homeless students within the Beaverton School District.** To volunteer or for more information about this event and the Beaverton Cares program, please contact Lani Parr at (503) 526-2243.

Today there are **more than 1,240 homeless students in the Beaverton School District** and the number is climbing higher each week. While these students struggle to overcome obstacles and get an education, the high school students of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board (MYAB), the Beaverton Cares program and Beaverton's Neighborhood Association Committees are joining together to host this special screening. In conjunction with the film screening, the **Beaverton Cares** awareness program will be collecting items for homeless students, such as gift cards, clothes, toiletries and linens. Donated items may be brought to the **Neighborhood Office at City Hall (4755 SW Griffith Dr.)**, to the **Beaverton Family Resource Center** (16550 SW Merlo Road, Portable #1) or to the event on April 7.

"It's so important that we help the struggling youth of our community succeed," said Mayor Denny Doyle. "The number is high in part because our school district does such a great job of outreach and assistance to these kids. We have to step up our community efforts to end student homelessness. I'm proud of the teens on our Mayor's Youth Advisory Board and our neighborhood leaders for taking on this initiative."

"The Blind Side" is the story of Michael Oher, a homeless and traumatized boy who became an All American football player and first round NFL draft pick with the help of a caring woman and her family. The event will be hosted by the City's Beaverton Cares awareness program, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board and Beaverton Neighborhood Association Committees and sponsored by the Beaverton Valley Times, Leadership Beaverton and the Beaverton School District. The corporate sponsor for the event is Big Al's, which is opening a new facility in the Progress Ridge Town Square this summer and providing nearly 200 new jobs to local residents. A special thanks goes to Valley Cinema Pub and owner Charles Nakvasil for providing the venue and film.

In addition to homelessness numbers that have already outstripped the 2008-2009 school year total of 1,114, one out of ten children in the Beaverton School District lives below the Federal Poverty Line and more than 37 percent of the students in the District are receiving free and reduced lunch benefits. In

comparison, the Hillsboro School District counted 403 homeless students and the Tigard-Tualatin District had 170 in 2008-2009.

ABOUT BEAVERTON CARES

The Beaverton Cares program seeks to raise awareness of human needs issues in the community and to seek collaborative solutions. Since its launch in June 2009, highlights of the program include three emergency food distributions in partnership with the Oregon Food Bank and the Giving Garden project that provided more than 1,500 pounds of fresh produce to local food pantries. For more information, please contact Lani Parr at (503) 526-2243 or visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov/BeavertonCares.

ABOUT THE MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Board (MYAB) was established to provide a voice for youth in our community. This ad-hoc committee consists of 30 members from Beaverton area high schools and is responsible for the annual Youth Summit and other community events. Students are selected by the Mayor to serve on the Board for a two (2) year term through an open application process. Applications for the 2010-2011 school year are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13 and can be found at www.beavertonoregon.gov/myab.

ABOUT BEAVERTON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

There are 11 distinct neighborhoods in Beaverton that are represented by Neighborhood Association Committees (NACs). Anyone who lives, owns property or a business, or represents a non-profit organization within the boundaries of these neighborhoods is a member of their NAC. For more information about the Neighborhood Program and Neighborhood Association Committees, please visit www.beavertonoregon.gov/NAC.

ABOUT BEAVERTON

Beaverton was recently named the **safest city in the Northwest** for the third consecutive year. Among other accolades, Beaverton was also lauded as one of the **Best Places to Raise Kids in America** by **BusinessWeek** magazine, one of the **Top 100 Best Places to Live in America** by **Money** magazine, an **All-America City finalist in 2005**, is recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as a **Green Power Community** and is designated as a **Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly Community** by the League of American Bicyclists. Beaverton also enjoys the most diverse population (by percentage of population) among Oregon cities.

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